

## PILLARS OF SMOKE

The Divine Symbol That Typifies God's Power and Mercy.

Dr. Talmage Speaks of the Trials Through Which Truth Has Triumphantly Struggled—Martyrs to Faith.

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The trials through which the truth has struggled are by Dr. Talmage here set forth under a Bible symbol of great suggestiveness and power, text, Solomon's Song 2:6: "Who is this that cometh out of the wilderness like pillars of smoke?"

The architecture of the smoke is wonderful, whether God with his finger curves it into a cloud, or rounds it into a dome, or points it in a spire, or spreads it in a wing, or, as in the text, hoists it in a pillar. Watch it winding up from the country farmhouse in the early morning, showing that the pastoral industries have begun, or see it ascending from the chimneys of the city, telling of the homes fed, the factories turning out valuable fabrics, the printing presses preparing book and newspaper, and all the ten thousand wheels of work in motion. On a clear day this vapor spoken of mounds with such buoyancy and spreads such a delicate veil across the sky and traces such graceful lines of circle and semicircle and waves and tosses and sinks and soars and scatters with such affluence of shape and color and suggestiveness that if you have never noticed it you are like a man who has all his life lived in Paris and yet never seen the Luxembourg, or all his life in Rome and never seen the Vatican, or all his life at Lockport and never seen Niagara. Forty-four times the Bible speaks of the smoke, and it is about time that somebody preached a sermon recognizing this strange, weird, beautiful, elastic, charming, terrible and fascinating vapor. Across the Bible sky floats the smoke of Sinai, the smoke of Sodom, the smoke of Ai, the smoke of the pit, the smoke of the volcanic hills when God touches them, and in my text the glorious church of God coming up out of the wilderness like pillars of smoke.

In the first place, these pillars of smoke in my text indicate the suffering church of God as endured. What do I mean by the church? I mean not a building, not a sect, but those who in all ages and all lands and of all beliefs love God and are trying to do right. For many centuries the heavens have been black with the smoke of martyrdom. If set side by side, you could girdle the earth with the fires of persecution—Rowland Taylor, burned at Hadleigh; Latimer, burned at Oxford; John Rogers, burned at Smithfield; John Hooper, burned at Gloucester; John Huss, burned at Constance; Lawrence Saunders, burned at Coventry; Joan of Arc, burned at Rouen.

Protestants have represented Catholics as having a monopoly of persecutions, but both Protestant and Catholic have practiced cruelties. The Catholics during the reign of Hunneric were stripped of their clothing, hoisted in the air by pulleys with weights suspended from their feet, then let down, and ears and eyes, and nose and tongue were amputated, and red hot plates of iron were put against the tenderest part of their bodies.

George Bancroft, the historian, says of the state of Maryland: "In the land which Catholics had opened to Protestants mass might not be said publicly, no Catholic priest or bishop might utter his faith in a voice of persuasion, no Catholic might teach the young. If a wayward child of a papist would but become an apostate, the law wrested from him from his parents a share of their property. Such were the methods adopted to prevent the growth of popery."

Catholicism as well as Protestantism has had its martyrs. It does seem as if when any sect got complete dominancy in any land the devil of persecution and cruelty took possession of that sect. Then see the Catholics after the Huguenots. See the Gentiles after the Jews in Tournai, where a great pit was dug and fire lighted at the bottom of the pit, and 160 Jewish victims were consumed. See the Presbyterian parliament of England, more tyrannical in their treatment of opponents than had been the criminal courts. Persecution against the Baptists by Paedo-Baptists. Persecution of the Established church against the Methodist church. Persecution against the Presbyterians. Under Emperor Diocletian 144,000 Christians were massacred, and 700,000 more of them died from banishment and exposure.

Witness the sufferings of the Waldenses, of the Albigenses, of the Nestorians. Witness St. Bartholomew's massacre. Witness the duke of Alva driving out of life 18,000 Christians. Witness Herod and Nero and Decius and Hildebrand and Torquemada and earl of Montford and Lord Claverhouse, who, when told that he must give account for his cruelties, said: "I have no need to account to man, and, as for God, I will take Him in my own hands." A red line runs through the church history of 1,900 years, a line of blood. Not by hundreds of thousands, but by millions must we count those slain for Christ's sake. No wonder John Milton put the groans of the martyrs to an immortal tune, writing:

"Ave, O Lord, thy slaughtered saints, whose bones  
Lie scattered on the Alpine mountains cold."

The smoke of martyrs' homes and martyrs' bodies if rolling up all at once would have eclipsed the noonday sun and turned the brightest day the world ever saw into a midnight. "Who is this that cometh out of the wilderness like pillars of smoke?"

Has persecution ceased? Ask that young man who is trying to be a Christian in a store or factory, where from morning to night he is the butt of all the mean witticisms of unbelieving employees. Ask that wife whose husband makes her fondness for the house of God and even her kneeling prayer by the bedside a derision and is no more fit for her holy companionship than a filthy crow would be a fit companion for a robin or a golden oriole. Compromise with the world and surrender to its conventionalities, and it may let you alone, but all who will live godly in Christ Jesus must suffer. Be a theater-going, theater-going, card-playing, wine-drinking, round-dancing Christian, and you may escape criticism and social pressure. Be an up-and-down, out-and-out follower of Christ, and you will find that to worldling as he speaks your name, and you will be put in many a doggerel and snubbed by those not worthy to blacken your oldest shoes. When the bridge at Ashtabula broke and let down the most of the carload of passengers to instant death, Mr. P. P. Bliss was seated on one side of the aisle of the car writing down a Christian song which he was composing, and on the other side a group of men were playing cards. Whose landing place in eternity would you prefer—that of P. P. Bliss, the Gospel singer, or of the card players?

A great complaint comes from the theaters about the ladies' high hats, because they obstruct the view of the stage, and a lady reporter asked me what I thought about it, and I told her that if the indecent pictures of actresses in the show windows were accurate pictures of what goes on in many of the theaters night by night then it would be well if the ladies' hats were a mile high, so as to completely obstruct the vision. If professed Christians go to such places during the week, no one will ever persecute them for their religion, for they have none, and they are the joke of hell. But let them live a consecrated and Christian life, and they will soon run against sneering opposition.

Meet me at any depot the world over, and with my eyes closed take me by the hand and lead me so that my feet will not stumble, and without my once looking down or looking on the level take me to some high roof or tower and let me see the tops of the churches, and I will tell you the proportion of suicides, of arsons, of murders, of thefts. According as the churches are numerous are the crimes few. According as the churches are few the crimes are numerous. The most beautiful organization the world ever saw or ever will see is the much-maligned church, the friend of all good, the foe of all evil, "fair as the moon and clear as the sun." Beautiful in her author, beautiful in her mission, the heroine of the centuries, the bride of Christ, the queen of the nations!

Men may desecrate it, as Cromwell when he stabled his cavalry horses in St. Paul's cathedral; or break off the image of Christ, as did the iconoclasts in York minster; or hurl against it august literary antipathies, as did Gibbon; or plot its overthrow, as do some in every community whose pride and hate and debauchery are reprovied by the Ten Commandments which it thunders and the sermon on the mount which it breathes. But it will stand as long as the earth stands, the same unique and wonder-working and beatific and miraculous thing for which God decreed it. Small wits tax their brains to say things that will put her at disadvantage, but many of them will send for its condolence when dying, and their children will be gathered up under its benedictions after the parental curse has been removed. Through her gates will march all the influences for good that shall ever reach our world. Take her membership as a mass, not speaking of the acknowledged exceptions, they are the noblest, grandest, kindest, best men and women of the ages. But for them the earth would long ago have been a burned out volcano. They have been the salt that has kept the human race from putrefaction in its offerable either to human or angelic olfactories.

The church of God will yet become the arbiter of nations. If the world would allow it, it could to-day step in between Germany and France and settle the trouble about Alsace and Lorraine, and between England and her antagonists, and between all the other nations that are flying at each other's throats and command peace and disband armies and harness for the plow the war horses now being hitched to ammunition wagons or saddled for cavalry charge. That time must come, or through the increased facility for shooting men and blowing up cities and whelming hosts to instant death, so that we can kill a regiment easier than we could once kill a company, and kill a brigade easier than we could once kill a regiment, the patent offices of the world more busy than ever in recognizing new engines of destruction, the human race will after awhile go fighting with one arm, and hobbling with one foot, and stumbling along with one eye, and some ingenious inventor, inspired of the archangel of all mischief, will contrive a machine that will bore a hole to the earth's center, and some desperate nation will throw into that hole enough dynamite to blow this hulk of a planet into fragments, dropping the meteoric stones on surrounding stellar habitations.

But this shall not be, for whatever I let go I hang onto my Bible, which tells me that the blacksmith's shop shall yet come to its grandest use when the warrior and the husbandman shall enter it side by side, and the soldier shall throw into its bank of fires his sword, and the farmer shall pick it up a plowshare, and the straightened spear shall be bent into a crook at each end and then cut in two, and what was one spear shall be two pruning hooks. Down with Moloch and up with Christ! Let no more war horses eat out of the manger where Jesus was born.

Peace! Forever roll off the sky the

black pillars of smoke from the Marenos and Salamancas and Borodinos and Sedans and Gettysburgs of earth! And right after them roll into the heavens the peaceful vapors from the chimneys of farmhouses and asylums and churches and capitals of Christian nations, and, as the sunlight strikes through these vapors, they will write in letters of jet and gold all over the sky, from horizon to zenith: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to men!"

While thinking of these things I looked out from my window, and the wind was violently blowing. And I saw from many chimneys the smoke tossed in the air and whirled in great velocity, volume after volume, fold after fold, and carried on the swift wind were the great pillars of smoke. And, helped by Solomon in the text, I saw the speed of the church symbolized. Do you realize the momentum the church of God is under? Why, the smoke of a chimney on the top of Mount Washington, when the wind is blowing 60 miles the hour, is slow as compared with the celerity of good influences. For 59 centuries the devil had it his own way among the nations. Nearly all the great missionary movements have been started within the century, and see what one century has done to recover the world from 59 centuries of devastation. What great revivals! What mighty churches! What saved millions!

From the ruins of Babylon and Assyria and Nineveh and the valleys of the Nile confirmations have been exhumed proving to all fair-minded men that the Bible is the truest book ever written. The mythologies of Egypt were found to have embodied in them the knowledge of man's expulsion from paradise and the sacrifice of a great Emmanuel. Moses' account of the creation, corroborated by the hammer of Christian geologists; the oldest profane writers, Herodotus, Helianus and Berosus, confirming the Bible account of ancient longevity; Tacitus and Pliny confirming the Bible accounts of destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah; Tacitus and Porphyry telling the same story of Christ as Matthew and Luke told; Macrobius telling of the massacre of children in Bethlehem, and Phlegon sketching at the crucifixion.

It is demonstrated to all honest men that it is not so certain that William Cullen Bryant wrote "Thanatopsis" or Longfellow wrote "Hiawatha" as that God, by the hand of prophet and apostle, wrote the Bible. All the wise men in science and law and medicine and literature and merchandise are gradually coming to believe in Christianity, and soon there will be no people who disbelieve in it except those conspicuous for lack of brain or men with two families, who do not like the Bible because it rebukes their swinish propensities.

The time is hastening when there will be no infidels left except libertines and harlots and murderers. Millions of Christians where once there were thousands, and thousands where once there were hundreds. What a bright evening this, the evening of the nineteenth century! And the twentieth century, which is about to dawn, will, in my opinion, bring universal victory for Christ and the church that now is marching on with step double quick or, if you prefer the figure of the text, is being swept on in the mighty gallop of blessing imposing and grand and majestic and swift like pillars of smoke.

Oh, come into the church through Christ the door, a door more glorious than that of the temple of Herules, which had two pillars, and one was gold and the other emerald! Come in to-day! The world you leave behind is a poor world, and it will burn and pass off like pillars of smoke. Whether the final conflagration will start in the coal mines of Pennsylvania, which, in some places, have for many years been burning and eating into the heart of the mountains, or whether it shall begin near the California geysers or whether from out the furnaces of Cotopaxi and Vesuvius and Stromboli it shall burst forth upon the astonished nations I make no prophecy, but all geologists tell us that we stand on the lid of the world, the heart of which is a raging, roaring, awful flame, and some day God will let the red monsters out of their imprisonment of centuries, and New York, on fire in 1835, and Charleston on fire in 1863, and Chicago on fire in 1872, and Boston on fire in 1873 were only like one spark from a blacksmith's forge as compared with that last universal blaze which will be seen in other worlds. But gradually the flames will lessen, and the world will become a great living coal, and that will take on ashen hue, and then our ruined planet will begin to smoke, and the mountains will smoke, and the valleys will smoke, and the islands will smoke, and the seas will smoke, and the cities will smoke, and the five continents will be five pillars of smoke. But the black vapors will begin to lessen in height and density and then will become hardly visible to those who look upon it from the sky galleries, and after awhile from just one point there will curl up a thin, solitary vapor, and then even that will vanish, and there will be nothing left except the charred ruins of a burned out world, the corpse of a dead star, the ashes of an extinguished planet, a fallen pillar of smoke.

But that will not interfere with your investments if you have taken Christ as your Saviour. Secure Heaven as your eternal home, and you can look down upon a dismantled, disrupted and demolished earth without any perturbation. When wrapped in fire the realms of ether glow, And Heaven's last thunders shake the earth below, Thou, undismayed, shalt o'er the ruins smile And light the torch at Nature's funeral pile.

When wrapped in fire the realms of ether glow, And Heaven's last thunders shake the earth below, Thou, undismayed, shalt o'er the ruins smile And light the torch at Nature's funeral pile.

## KILLS WITHOUT HITTING.

The Lyddite Shell Used by the British Forces in South Africa is a Terrible Destroyer.

The high explosive called lyddite, from the name of the small Kentish town and gunnery center, where the experiments with it were made, is nothing less than picric acid brought into a dense state by fusion. Picric acid is a bright yellow substance freely used in peaceful industries for dyeing purposes. It is obtained by the action of nitric acid on phenol or carbolic acid. It burns very violently, and owing to the tremendous blast produced by the explosion, the destructive effect of a bursting shell filled with it is some 11 times greater than that of a shell filled with powder.

Common shells of forged steel filled with lyddite are used with six and 9.2-inch breech-loading guns, and with howitzers; also with four to six-inch quick-firing guns.

All lyddite shells are equipped with percussion nose fuses only; hence, their explosion takes place on impact in the following fashion: The percussion fuse ignites a picric powder exploder, which in turn ignites the bursting charge of lyddite, the detonation of the fuse and of the two explosives inside the shell being instantaneous. The picric powder exploder, we should add, is inserted in a recess left in the lyddite for that purpose. Lyddite shell is to some extent less barbarous than shrapnel exploded by powder, for, though widespread, its death-dealing effects are due more to air concussion than to the wounding effects of the flying fragments. In other words, in the case of a lyddite shell bursting in a group of men, the greater number will be killed not by the pieces of the shell, but by the blow of the suddenly compressed air—Montreal Herald.

## No Reason to Specify.

They were dancing. The music was heavenly. The swish of her silken skirts was delightful. The fragrance of the roses upon her bosom was almost intoxicating.

"Ah," she said, looking up into his face and smiling sweetly, "you remind me of one of Whitman's poems." A sudden dizziness seemed to seize him. It was as if he were floating along in a dream. When he could catch his breath to speak he asked: "Which one?"

"Oh, any one," she replied. "The feet are all mixed up in all of them."—Chicago Times-Herald.

**Solid Trains to Northern Michigan.**  
The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway is now running solid trains of palace sleeping cars, dining cars (serving meals a la carte) and first-class day coaches, through from Chicago to Calumet, Houghton, Hancock and other points in the Copper Country without change of cars, with direct connection for Marquette, Negaunee, Ishpeming, etc., and passengers from the East, South and Southwest will find this a most desirable route. All coupon ticket agents sell tickets via the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway.

Nell—"Why did Maude get a divorce? I thought she and George got along beautifully." Belle—"She did, but the cook took a violent dislike to him and threatened to leave."—Philadelphia Record.

**Many People Cannot Drink.**  
You can drink Grain-O when you please and sleep like a top. For Grain-O does not stimulate; it nourishes, cheers and feeds. Yet it looks and tastes like the best coffee. For nervous persons, young people and children Grain-O is the perfect drink. Made from pure grains. Get a package from your grocer to-day. Try it in place of coffee. 15c and 25c.

**Mr. Snell—"What are you crying for, Elsie?"** "My little daughter—" "I've seen the rock that the diamond mines may be exhausted in seven years, and it's eight before my coming out!"—Jeweller's Weekly.

**Coughing Leads to Consumption.**  
Kemp's Balsam will stop the Cough at once. Go to your druggist to-day and get a sample bottle free. Large bottles 25c and 50c. Go at once; delays are dangerous.

"See how that human skeleton is cracked." "That man's dead broke."—Philadelphia Bulletin.

**Babies Will Not Laugh**  
If you give them neostems for Coughs, Colds, Croup and Whooping Cough. The only safe and safe remedy is Hoxie's Croup Cure. 50c.

Don't count your poultry until they get big enough to get away from the cat.—Chicago Daily News.

**To Cure a Cold in One Day**  
Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund money if it fails to cure. 50c.

Heart failure covers a multitude of medical ignorance.—Chicago Daily News.

## THE MARKETS.

New York, Dec. 18	
FLOUR—No. 2 red.....	74 1/2 @ 75 1/2
WHEAT—No. 2 red.....	41 1/2 @ 42 1/2
CORN—No. 2 white.....	31 1/2 @ 32 1/2
RYE—No. 2 western.....	24 1/2 @ 25 1/2
BARLEY—No. 2 western.....	19 1/2 @ 20 1/2
BUCKWHEAT—No. 2.....	11 1/2 @ 12 1/2
POPKORN—Family.....	11 1/2 @ 12 1/2
LARD—Western steamed.....	10 1/2 @ 11 1/2
BUTTER—Western creamery.....	23 @ 24
CHEESE—Late made small.....	12 @ 13
EGGS—Western.....	21 @ 22
WOOL—Domestic fleece.....	14 @ 15
TEXAS.....	14 @ 15
CATTLE—Steers.....	4 1/2 @ 5 1/2
SHEEP.....	3 1/2 @ 4 1/2
HOGS.....	4 1/2 @ 5 1/2
CLEVELAND	
FLOUR—Winter wheat pat.....	4 1/2 @ 5 1/2
MINNEAPOLIS.....	4 1/2 @ 5 1/2
WHEAT—No. 2 red.....	41 1/2 @ 42 1/2
CORN—No. 2 white.....	31 1/2 @ 32 1/2
RYE—No. 2 white.....	24 1/2 @ 25 1/2
BARLEY—No. 2 western.....	19 1/2 @ 20 1/2
BUCKWHEAT—No. 2.....	11 1/2 @ 12 1/2
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WOOL—Domestic fleece.....	14 @ 15
TEXAS.....	14 @ 15
CATTLE—Steers.....	4 1/2 @ 5 1/2
SHEEP.....	3 1/2 @ 4 1/2
HOGS.....	4 1/2 @ 5 1/2
TOLEDO	
FLOUR—Good steers.....	5 1/2 @ 6 1/2
VEALS.....	5 1/2 @ 6 1/2
SHEEP—Mixed.....	5 1/2 @ 6 1/2
BEST LAMBS.....	5 1/2 @ 6 1/2
HOGS—Yorkers.....	4 1/2 @ 5 1/2
Pigs.....	4 1/2 @ 5 1/2
CHICAGO	
FLOUR—Good steers.....	5 1/2 @ 6 1/2
VEALS.....	5 1/2 @ 6 1/2
SHEEP—Mixed.....	5 1/2 @ 6 1/2
BEST LAMBS.....	5 1/2 @ 6 1/2
HOGS—Yorkers.....	4 1/2 @ 5 1/2
Pigs.....	4 1/2 @ 5 1/2

**Catarrh Cannot be Cured**  
with Local Applications, as they cannot reach the seat of the disease. Catarrh is a blood or constitutional disease, and in order to cure it you must take internal remedies. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces. Hall's Catarrh Cure is not a quick medicine. It was prescribed by one of the best physicians in this country for years, and is a regular prescription. It is composed of the best tonics known, combined with the best blood purifiers, acting directly on the mucous surfaces. The perfect combination of the two ingredients is what produces such wonderful results in curing Catarrh. Send for testimonials, free. P. J. CHENEY & CO., Props., Toledo, O. Sold by all druggists, price 75c. Hall's Family Pills are the best.

**The Huling Passion with Him.**  
"Evelyn is upstairs getting ready," said the little brother to the stout caller. "I'll go and tell her to hurry up."

"Thank you," said the stout caller. "Tell her to hurry up or to hurry down, just as you think best. Anything to reduce my wait."—Somerville Journal.

**Care of the Hands in Winter.**  
To keep the hands in good condition in cold weather care must be given them. Gloves should be worn when engaged in house work, or going out in the open air. They should be washed in tepid water with Ivory soap, and carefully dried on a soft towel. Too frequent washing, or extremes of heat or cold should be avoided.

**The Great Test.**  
"Is Willoughby Winks a companionable fellow?"

"Oh, yes; he makes himself agreeable even when he plays whist."—Detroit Free Press.

**Lane's Family Medicine.**  
Move the bowels each day. In order to be healthy this is necessary. Acts gently on the liver and kidneys. Cures sick headache. Price 25c and 50c.

**A Slight Misunderstanding.**  
She—I suppose you were presented at court while in London?

He—Yes, twice, but I was acquitted both times.—Chicago Evening News.

**Cuba.**  
W. C. Rinehart, G. P. A. Queen & Crescent Route, Cincinnati, has a beautifully illustrated pamphlet, now in press descriptive of Cuba and Puerto Rico.

Send in your name at once with a 2-cent stamp to cover postage on a free copy as soon as they are received.

"Feeling ill again? Blow me tight, you must like it. Why, I believe if you was to feel quite well and 'ad nothin' to grumble at you'd die."—Aly Sloper.

**Pain's Cure for Consumption** relieves the most obstinate coughs.—Rev. D. Buchmueller, Lexington, Mo., Feb. 24, '94.

Gratitude, like everything else, is obnoxious when it is overdone.—Aitchison Globe.

The daughters of a millionaire always have fine figures.—Chicago Daily News.

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"Star" tin tags (showing small stars printed on under side of tag). "Horse Shoe," "J. T.," "Good Luck," "Cross Bow," and "Drummond" Natural Leaf Tin Tags are of equal value in securing presents mentioned below, and may be assorted. Every man, woman and child can find something on the list that they would like to have, and can have

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1 Match Box.....	25
2 Knife, one blade, good steel.....	50
3 Scissors, 4 inches.....	50
4 Child's Set, Knife, Fork and Spoon.....	50
5 Salt and Pepper Set, one each, double plate, white metal.....	50
6 French Hair Wood Pipe.....	50
7 Razor, hollow ground, fine English steel.....	50
8 Butter Knife, triple plate, best quality.....	50
9 Sugar Knife, triple plate, best quality.....	50
10 Stamp Box, sterling silver.....	50
11 Knife, "Kean Cutter," two blades.....	50
12 Butter Knife, "Kean Cutter," 4 in. blade.....	50
13 Shears, "Kean Cutter," 4 in. blade.....	50
14 Nut Set, Cracker and 6 Pick, silver plated.....	50
15 Glass Ball, "Association," best quality.....	50
16 Alarm Clock, nickel.....	50
17 Six Gentlemen Rogers' Tea spoons, best plated goods.....	50
18 Spoon, nickel, stem wind and set.....	50
19 Spoon, good steel, best quality.....	50
20 Six Gentlemen Rogers' Table spoons.....	50
21 Six each, Knives and Forks, best quality.....	50
22 Six each, Gentlemen Rogers' Knives and Forks, best plated goods.....	50

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